

# The Democratic Banner.

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## TOWN IS WIPED ENTIRELY OFF MAP

### Dam Breaks Letting Out Mountain Of Water

#### Austin, Pa., Is Mass of Wreckage.

#### DEATH LIST DECREASES

Will Not Exceed 300 Persons at the Outside.

PROPERTY LOSS \$6,000,000

Business Men Are Bankrupt and Prosperous Little Village Will Not Be Rebuilt.

Fire Alarm Instead of Flood Warning Kept Many From Escaping With Their Lives.

Austin, Pa., Oct. 2.—Revised estimates of the number of persons killed when the dam at the Bayliss Pulp and Paper company's plant, a mile and a half north of here, broke and let a deluge of water down through the narrow valley, are greatly reduced from the figures originally given out and it is not now believed that the number will run above 300 and may be as low as 200. The schoolhouse on the hill has been converted into a morgue, and it is crammed with bodies. Bodies are said to have been seen as far as 10 miles south of Austin, and a great many of them will never be recovered, as they will be swept down to the Susquehanna river. The flood has covered up everything with wreckage and not even a foundation or cellar remain. Except for the bank building, the site of Austin is a leveled mass of bodies and bits of wreckage. Fires are still burning among the piles of drift and many bodies are being burned. The Remova fire company is on the ground and is gradually overcoming the flames. They brought 200 men with them on a special train. At the Buffalo and Susquehanna car shops a great pile of bodies is believed to be beneath the wreckage. The fire companies are trying to extinguish the flames here in order to recover the bodies.

Many of those who escaped from the wall of water and the fires are lying at the point of death from the terrible injuries they have received. A number of amputations of legs and arms have already been made. Dr. Matsuy lost his entire family in the flood. He is on the ground now and one of the bravest of the remaining citizens of Austin.

Word received here from Costello, a small village, 10 miles south of Austin, states that 10 of its residents lost their lives in the flood which descended from Austin to them. Fifty buildings were washed away and help is needed there very badly.

The state constabulary have arrived here and they are patrolling the town and surrounding country. Fifty men have been sworn in as deputy police and are aiding in the search for bodies.

still stands in the town below. The pillar of water that jammed its battering ram of cordwood through the valley where the town of Austin lay swept itself a clean path for an even mile. There it smashed a broadside against a full length of the principal street, gathering up as it went the boards that a minute before were houses, and heaved the splintered fragments against the more substantial line of brick stores. The dam, that split into eight pieces, just as a row of dominoes will bulge out, was not an old structure. It was placed below an antique wooden crib a trifle over two years ago. But there have been murmurings against the heavy bulk of water that it restrained even in spite of its newness. The women of the town especially have worried about the day when it might break. The men were disposed to laugh at these fears.

Last spring there was an alarm when it was thought that the brink was ready to give way. The water poured over it so freely and with such violence that a man galloped on horseback down the valley crying the warning that another rider once gave in a flood in this state. At that time the people ran to the overhanging hills, but there was no need for their fears. The flood did not come. But when the alarm was over and the townspeople went out to look at the barrier, it was found that the concrete had slipped down something like 18 inches. After that notices were cut in the upper surface to lessen the pressure by permitting a larger volume of water to trickle over the edge.

The examination of Farley Gannett, engineer for the state water supply commission, showed that one chunk of concrete weighing perhaps a ton and a half, had been projected down stream 100 feet. Another much longer section lay 60 feet out of the plumb line of the dam. Mr. Gannett found a man who from the hillside saw the bursting of the wall.

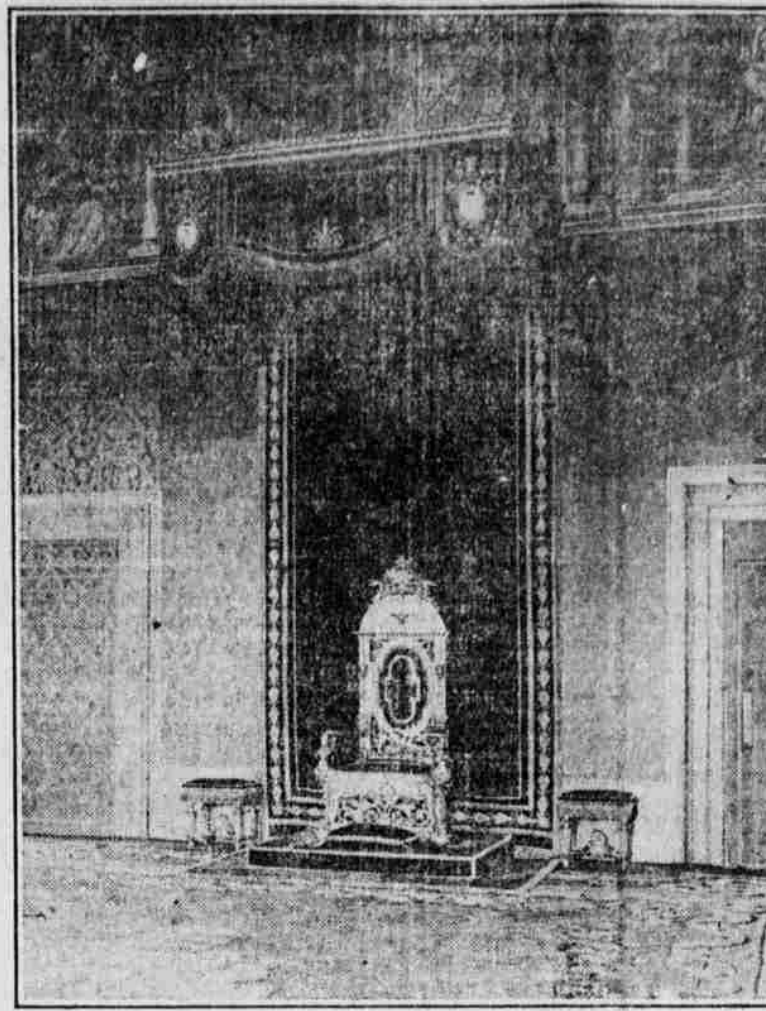
"A. Newman, a politician of Cowdarsport," said the state engineer, "told me that he was driving along the hillside, away from the dam. His companion turned back to look at the flood of water. It seems to me that there's an awful lot of water coming over today," said Newman. "That's right," agreed his driver, and then as they looked Freeman shouted, "By God, there it goes!"

"The big lump popped out of place and catapulted down the stream. Then, like the cracking of a whip, the other popped out. In another second the great mass of wood pulp was being flicked into the air like matches. It went up like a cloud. The smokestacks of the Bayliss Paper company were hidden behind the spray and cracking logs."

The chunk that popped so far down was the first to give way. It was the top half of a section, ripped off as cleanly as if it had been sawed. The exposed surface of the base that remained in places showed that it had not been roughened. It apparently marked the end of a day's work in the construction and the only way in which the next day's section had been welded into it was by four twisted iron bars which were pressed downward.

Hired Special Lookout. After the false alarm of last spring the inhabitants of Austin decided that in the event of another flood they might not place any reliance upon the speed of a horse's hoofs and the strength of a man's voice to warn them. It was agreed that one long blast from the whistle of the Standard Wood company should be the signal for the people to spread out of the quarter-mile width of the valley and to climb the hills. They went further and hired Harry Davis, the general factotum around Cora Brooks' roadhouse, which was the nearest building to the dam except the pulp mills, to keep an eye out for danger signs in his leisure mo-

### Throne Room In the Vatican, Where Pope Receives Visitors



Photograph by American Press Association, 1911.

FEW travelers go to Rome without seeing the outside of the Vatican; the magnificent palace that for hundreds of years has been the residence of the head of the Roman Catholic church. The Vatican stands on ground that was once occupied as the gardens of the Emperor Nero. Pope Symmachus first built a residence there in the early years of the sixth century. Nicholas V. (1447-55) began a systematic policy of improving the Vatican, which has been followed by his successors. The palace is now a series of buildings covering nearly fourteen acres and containing about 1,100 rooms. The throne room, pictured above, is where the pontiff holds formal audiences, and this room has in past years been seen by notable persons from all parts of the world.

Davis went up to take a look at the dam with Fred Anderson, superintendent of the mills. The handy man around the roadhouse did not like the looks of it, he said, and he went back to his job a little bit worried. He went to the window more frequently in the lull in business around the noon hour.

It was a few minutes after 2 in the afternoon that he heard the sound of which the town had been in dread. One look was enough to show him that the break had happened.

He ran to the phone as he had agreed to do and got the telephone central in the Bank of Austin building, where a young woman had the receiver across her hair. He gave the traditional warning just as every one else who had the chance gave it. They had been thinking a lot about the Johnstown disaster, had the Austin people, and in every case they appear to have followed the action of history.

"The dam has burst!" yelled Harry into the phone.

"Quit yer kidding," said Miss Binkley, the phone operator. "He says the dam has burst," she repeated to her co-worker, Katherine Lyons, at the next desk.

"I tell you it has!" shouted Davis. Something in the way he said it made Lena believe it this time, and the way that she reached for a handful of wires sent Miss Lyons to work too. They called up the Standard Wood company, told the man who answered to send out his warning, and then began telling everyone they could reach.

Miss Binkley waited until she saw the wall of water coming and then she ran into the streets. Miss Lyons stuck to her switchboard until she saw the steeple of the Presbyterian church topple and drop. Then she clattered down the stairs. She stayed so long that she forgot her pocketbook. But it was just a step to the higher ground from the bank building, and she came out all right, as did Miss Binkley.

Got Signals Twisted.

Somewhere the men at the kindling yards didn't sound the flood signal. Instead of one long blast there came eight short toots and then a sustained whistle, the town fire signal. As a result people strolled out to see where the blaze was. The single hose cart was yanked into the main street, and was whirled around the corner into Railroad avenue, the chief thoroughfare, that cuts off at right angles along the banks of Freeman run, the creek that went over the dam and then rippled through the town with a width of not more than a dozen feet. The firemen turned up the valley and raced right at

the wave that was spreading before them.

John Dezell was standing upon the high ground at the west. He saw what the men below couldn't see and he shouted with all his voice. They heard him, dropped their ropes and ran to his place of safety. The hose cart was scooped up a minute later. Dezell's sister was beside him. She remained and pointed down to Main street, where four schoolgirls were walking along, arm in arm, looking into the sky for sparks. As they watched, the four were caught in the force of the wood and water and hurled against the brick buildings. Their bodies have not been recovered.

The property loss will exceed \$6,000,000, and it is the general opinion that the town never will be rebuilt. Two, at least, of the large plants will not be reconstructed, and a majority of the business men of the place have been financially ruined.

Mary Blaitz, employed in the office of the Bayliss Pulp and Paper company, was caught beneath a huge grinding stone and all efforts to release her failed. At last, in desperation, she pleaded with her would-be rescuers to amputate her leg with an ax. At last one man was found with sufficient nerve to do the girl's bidding, and after whacking away four or five times the leg was severed and the girl released.

## PROBE TO BE MADE

Columbus, O., Oct. 2.—Convinced that gross mismanagement and irregularities, if not dishonesty, have long been the accepted standard at the Ohio penitentiary and other state institutions, Attorney General Hogan announced that he would proceed with an investigation of institution purchases and will omit no effort to discover offenders and punish them if possible. The investigation will be public and will commence tomorrow morning.

An Itemized Bill.

The departing guest, according to a writer in the London Opinion, scrutinized his bill and exclaimed, "Look here, you charge for writing paper and I haven't used a scrap all the time I've been here!" The Proprietor—Ah, pardon, monsieur. It is for the paper on which your bill is made out.

### TAFT SPECIAL FOLLOWS FLOOD

Rans Into Big Cloudburst at Atchison, Kan.

IS LATE IN REACHING OMAHA

Four States Visited by Regular Deluge. Which Sends Water Over Tracks in Many Places and Renders Bridges and Trestles Unsafe. Pilot Sent Ahead to Pick Way—is One of Most Thrilling Incidents in President's Long Journey.

Omaha, Neb., Oct. 2.—President Taft was marooned in his special train for nine hours on the Missouri prairies by the deluge that flooded four states and halted traffic from Omaha to Kansas City. The delay brought the president into this city 12 hours behind his schedule.

For most of the day the president's train was the only one running between Omaha and Kansas City. Trestles were built to hold the tracks above the surging mass of water that buried the meadows and trains were made up to test the track before the Taft special was allowed to continue its journey.

For miles at a stretch the water ran up to the tracks and flooded over them. No rock bedding could have lasted a minute before the rush of water. Houses with the water half up to their windows were passed and entire cornfields, fences and roads were submerged. Families with wagons full of household furniture rescued from the flood stood stranded in the mud on the highest points of the roads as the president's train passed by. At every dangerous point the president's permission was asked each time before proceeding.

Broke Monotony of Trip.

Despite the precautions of the railroad officials and their assurances that there was no danger, it was the most thrilling ride that the president has ever been given in all the hundred thousand miles of his traveling about the country.

About six miles north of Atchison, where a cloudburst occurred, is the village of Rushville. The route of the train passed by that town and over the old river bed, which is low and flat and partially marsh land. Into the old river bed the water had rushed and eaten away the bedding. About a mile north of Rushville the land gave way entirely beneath the tracks just as the pilot train passed over. They tried to cross back to intercept the Taft special, but it was impossible. So they telegraphed the dispatcher at Rushville and he caught the news just before the headlight on the Taft special came into sight. By that time the torrent had weakened the tracks behind the train so badly that it was not safe to attempt to return to Atchison. The Taft special was marooned and, though the railroad men had turned heaven and earth, they could not move it. The pilot ran on to St. Joseph and the work was at once begun to patch up the tracks.

### LIVE STOCK AND GRAIN

CHICAGO.—Cattle: Steves, 4 75@8 15; Texas steers, 4 30@5 10; western steers, 4 15@7 00; stockers and feeders, 3 10@6 75; cows and heifers, 3 10@6 25; calves—56 00@59 50; Sheep and Lambs: Native sheep, 3 25@4 00; western, 3 75@4 10; native lambs, 4 00@6 00; western, 4 50@6 00; yearlings, 3 85@4 50; Hogs—Light, 6 10@6 75; mixed, 6 05@6 80; heavy, 5 80@6 70; rough, 5 50@6 05; pigs, 4 00@6 15. Wheat—No. 2 red, 95¢; No. 2 white, 94¢; No. 2 hard, 93¢. Corn—No. 2 white, 47¢; No. 2 yellow, 46¢. Oats—No. 2 white, 47¢; No. 2 yellow, 46¢. CINCINNATI.—Wheat: No. 2 red, 97¢; No. 2 white, 96¢; No. 2 hard, 95¢. Corn—No. 2 white, 48¢; No. 2 yellow, 47¢. Oats—No. 2 white, 47¢; No. 2 yellow, 46¢. LARD—No. 1, 10¢; No. 2, 9¢. BACON—No. 1, 10¢; No. 2, 9¢. BUTTER—Creamery, 20¢; Dairy, 17¢. EGGS—Poultry—Springers, 12¢; Hens, 12¢; Turkeys, 17¢. EGGS—Dairy, 12¢. CATTLE—Steers, 3 75@6 75; heifers, 3 75@6 25; cows, 3 50@4 75; calves, 3 00@4 50; Sheep and Lambs—Sheep, 3 50@4 50; Lambs, 4 00@6 00; Hogs—Packers, 5 50@6 85; stags, 3 00@5 25; sows, 4 00@5 15; pigs and lights, 3 00@6 10. EAST BUFFALO.—Cattle: Export cattle, 4 50@7 00; shipping steers, 3 50@5 50; butcher cattle, 3 50@6 75; heifers, 3 50@6 00; fat cows, 3 50@5 00; bulls, 3 00@5 00; milkers and springers, 3 25@4 00; Calves—40 00@50 50. Sheep and Lambs—Mixed sheep, 3 75@4 10; weathers, 4 00@4 35; ewes, 3 50@4 00; lambs, 4 25@5 50; yearlings, 3 50@5 00. Hogs—Heavy, 5 90@7 00; mediums, 5 70@6 00; Yorkers, 5 50@6 00; pigs, 3 00@5 10; roughs, 5 75@5 90; stags, 3 00@5 25. PITTSBURGH.—Cattle: Choice, 7 25@7 50; primes, 6 75@7 00; city butchers, 6 00@6 25; bulls, 3 50@5 75; cows, 3 00@4 25; fresh cows and springers, 3 25@4 00. Calves—Veal, 3 50@5 00. Sheep and Lambs—Prime wethers, 4 00@4 25; good mixed, 3 50@3 75; lambs, 3 50@4 25. Hogs—Heavy hogs, 6 00@6 75; heavy mixed, 5 75@6 75; mediums and heavy Yorkers, 5 50@6 00; light Yorkers, 5 25@5 50; pigs, 3 50@5 75. TOLEDO.—Wheat, 95¢; corn, 71¢; oats, 45¢; cloverseed, 112 00.

## TURKS RETIRE OUT OF RANGE

### Not Ready For Battle With Italians

Will Await Reinforcements—News Wires From Seat Of War In Control Of Invaders And Roman Press Is Filled With Tales Of Valor Which Lack First Elements Of Truth, But Serve To Fire Hearts Of Countrymen With Patriotism—The Situation In Tripoli

Rome, Oct. 2.—Even the yellowest exponents of sensational journalism are shocked at the liberties taken with the truth by the Roman press in announcing a series of naval victories. The Italians, however, accepted the news as a matter of fact and with genuine Italian pride.

Reliable information is lacking, since the Tripoli and Malta cable is in the hands of Italians. The only positive facts are that the Turks have changed tactics, abandoned Tripoli and departed into the interior, where they intend to remain pending the arrival of reinforcements, and that the Italians are now occupying Tripoli. The Italians are already showing anxiety lest the Turks swoop down on them.

To date the Italians have sunk four Turkish cruisers and five destroyers, including the Hamid, Alpago and Tarabony. These vessels were

unaware that war had been declared and it is considered that the Italian attack was an act of piracy. The vessels were sunk at Prevesa, as told of in previous dispatches, and the attack has incensed the Austrian government.

## CHILDREN CREMATED

Indiana, Pa., Oct. 2.—Eight children of Mr. and Mrs. William Dias of Heshbon, ranging in age from 13 years to 3 months, were burned to death when fire destroyed the family home.

## REMARKABLE CONFESSION MADE TO THE POLICE

Chicago, Oct. 2.—Railroad officials and shopmen on the Harriman lines, who struck to enforce their demands for recognition of the newly-organized federation, spent the day in preparing for the struggle. The walk-out, occurring just before the Saturday half-holiday, gave the railroads a full day and a half in which to make preparations to run the shops, and it was said that in many of the shops practically a full force of men would be at work. The men at the

big Burnside shops here spent the day quietly, gathering in little knots in the streets and in their cottages, discussing the outcome of the struggle.

Watchers near the ship's stockade say more than 100 strikebreakers were brought into the stockade on a special train. Provisions for keeping the men at the shops were also made. There was no sign of a demonstration, although a guard of policemen was constantly at the gates.

## CYCLONE AT LIMA

Lima, O., Oct. 2.—A cyclone demolished barns, unroofed houses, laid orchards waste and caused damage estimated at \$100,000 four miles east of here. The two-story frame house of Edward Nelson, farmer, while several members of the family were within, was blown off its foundation and set down 200 feet distant. No one was seriously injured. The cyclone swept a strip of country one-half mile wide and five miles long.

## ESCAPE FROM JAIL

Findlay, O., Oct. 2.—John J. Garland of Minneapolis, sentenced to four years in the penitentiary; Andrew McGorral, an alleged highway robber, not yet tried, and Harry Ebert of Columbus, who was held on a statutory charge, escaped from the Hancock county jail after Garland knocked down Sheriff Johns and the other two kicked him. He is in a serious condition.

### Centenarian Preacher Dies.

Findlay, O., Oct. 2.—Rev. John Smith died at his home at Mt. Blanchard, aged 100 years and 3 months. He was born in Hampshire county, W. Va., and came here in the early twenties. He has been in the ministry since 1840, and cast his first vote for Andrew Jackson. His long life was attributed to abstinence from liquor and tobacco and constant work.

### An Old Family.

He—Miss Bellcour claims to belong to a very old family. She—Well, she's justified. There are six of those girls, and the youngest of them must be at least thirty-five.—Exchange.

### Scanty Ammunition.

Colonel Starke's regiment just prior to the battle of Bunker Hill was quartered at Milford, some four miles distant, and was destitute of ammunition. About 10 o'clock on the morning he received orders to march. However, each man received a gill cupful of powder, fifteen balls and one flint. As the muskets were of varying caliber it was necessary to reduce the size of the balls for many of them.—Magna-line of American History.

### Art Versus Nature.

"How came she to get such a sudden craze on to visit the beauty doctors?" "She wants to look like her photograph."—Houston Post.